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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 744

By DeBerry L

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Reverend Sylvester Williams of Memphis.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Reverend Sylvester Williams; and

WHEREAS, an exemplary public servant and consummate professional, Sylvester Williams worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Williams was a devout member and Associate Pastor of the Union Valley Missionary Baptist Church, where he unfailingly earned the respect of his fellow Christians for the exemplary quality of his work and his dedicated service to God and humanity; he served under the astute leadership of Pastor H.O. Kneeland, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Williams loved to preach, and would often speak fondly of some of the local ministers in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Sylvester Williams was a salesman at Term City Furniture and Appliances, Inc., where he was widely respected and admired by his fellow employees and customers alike; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Williams was also deeply devoted to his family, and he endeavored to always remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he enjoyed the love and support of his children, Geri Duffey of Stockbridge, Georgia, and Sylvester Williams, Jr. of Alpharetta, Georgia; his mother and stepfather, Lucy Fortney and Alex Fortney of Memphis; his sister, Mary Griffin of Memphis; and his brother, Andrew Sain of Chicago; he was also the loving grandfather of three grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Williams leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Reverend Sylvester Williams, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character, his meritorious service as Associate Pastor of the Union Valley Missionary Baptist Church, and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage, conviction and compassion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Reverend Williams.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.